levels, including discussions in the Consultative Committee and the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals, in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, the Government finalised the "Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986". These modifications *inter alia* include criteria for keeping the drugs under price control. The rationale behind these decisions was to streamline the price control system, remove the anomolies and aberrations and concentrate on drugs having wide »usage.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Representations received are under examination by the Department.

Rising Prices of Vegetables

558. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of vegetables have sky rocketed since the past few months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for steep hike in prices of vegetables;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to bring down the prices of vegetables; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The wholesale prices of vegetables during the past few months reflected some seasonal fluctuations.

(b) The increase in the prices of vegetables can be attributed to recent floods and heavy rains which disrupted the normal supply of vegetables and created imbalance between the demand and supply;

(c) and (d) In order to control the excessive fluctuations in prices of vegetables, the Government have been undertaking both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices by the National Dairy Development Board, National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation and Super Bazar in Delhi. As a long-term measure the Government has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme to increase the prodcution of vegetables in the country.

Production of Iron and Steel in the Private Sector Companies

559. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registrations and the quantity of production, of iron and steel in the country granted to the Private Sector Companies;

(b) the steel production of private sector companies, plant-wise and sector-wise at present and the production levels targetted for the next three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, subject to certain locational restrictions. Intending entrepreneurs are now required to file Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum (IEM's) with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA). As per present information, as on 1.11.95 1558 IEM's for a total capacity of 131.39 million tonnes in the steel & steel related items, 23 IEM's for a total capacity of 7.55 million tonnes of Sponge Iron and 52 IEMs for a total capacity of 15.31 million tonnes of Pig Iron have been filed with SIA.

(b) and (c) As per available information, reported production of saleable steel, in the Electric Arc Furnace sector and TISCO and expected production (as reported and estimated) for 1995-96 are as below:

(in million tonnes)

	1994-95 April-Sept. 1995	,	Expected for 1995-96
TISCO	2.446	1.340	2.638
EAF	3.073	1.053	3.500

In addition, as per estimates, Induction Furnace Sector's production during 1994-95 was 1.50 million tonnes and is expected to be in the region of 2.00 million tonnes during the current year.

Whereas information on expected production from TISCO during the next three years in not available, the production from EAF and IF units is likely to depend upon various factors such as cost and availability of power, cost and availability of scrap etc.

Chlorine gas leak in Delhi University

560. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chlorine gas leaked in Delhi University recently from an old and corroded gas cylinder and continued for several days together;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and 'the steps taken to stop recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(c) whether any casualty was reported and if so, the compensation, if any, paid to the kith and kin of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi a Chlorine gas leakage took place in the Chemistry Laboratory of the University for a couple of days in September, 1995. The University took necessary steps to control the leakage and for disposal of residual Chlorine gas under expert advice. No casualty is reported to have taken place.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University has constituted a high level Committee to go into the entire question of safety in the laboratories of the University.

Export of Pig Iron

561. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether pig iron is being exported from the country in large quantities;

(b) if so, the total quantum of pig iron exported during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange earned by the country therefrom, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country is also importing pig iron at the same time; and

(d) if so, the quantum of pig iron imported during the last five years and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quantity and Value of pig iron exported during the last three years are as follows:

Quantity ('000 tonnes)			Value (Rs. in crores)		
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)
16	620	467	6	261	200